

THE HAMPTON REGIME.

IT GENERALLY SUCCEEDS WELL.
THE BOURBONS HARD TO CONTROL—HAMPTON MANAGES THEM ON IMPORTANT MEASURES—SOUTHCAROLINA A GAINER.

[FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

COLUMBIA, S. C., May 22.—It is now two months since the United States troops marched out of the State House and the Hampton party got full possession of the State Government. None of the consequences prophesied by the beaten party as certain to result from the change of authority have come about. All the good effects predicted by the other side that could be expected to show themselves in so short a time are already observable. Perfect peace and tranquillity prevail in all parts of the State. Nobody is being oppressed or account of political opinions—nobody has been driven away. The rights of the colored people are better respected than at any time since emancipation, and the feeling between the two races is more friendly than ever before; the expenses of the State Government have been reduced one-half, and those of the counties cut down to an almost equal extent. Nothing of efficiency appears to have been sacrificed by this mercantile economy. The State and counties perform all their proper functions more effectively, in fact, than in the time of high taxation and extravagant expenditure. The total tax levy for the present year will be one cent on the dollar, and the whole amount saved on the cost of running the government will reach nearly a million of dollars.

A wholesome change is noticeable in and about the legislative halls. Everything is clean, orderly, and business-like. No crowds of idle, dirty negroes infest the lobbies and passages, and the whole Capitol building has an unvoiced air of respectability. There are few loungers of any color. The work of legislation goes forward quietly and methodically, directed by men of intelligence and honesty. In the Senate about a third of the members are black, but there is no color line in the arrangement of the seats. A handsome specimen of South Carolina chivalry from Laurens County is sandwiched between two negroes. The stalwart new Senator from Chester County, with his plantation airs, gets along very well with the coal-black gentleman at his elbow; and the chief of the fire-eaters, Gen. Gary of Edgefield occupies a desk between Whitehouse, the carpet-bagger, and a dark mulatto. Rather more than a third of the members of the House are colored. There is a good deal of mingling of "black spirits and white" here, too, but most of the colored men are massed on one side of the hall. The representatives of the two races show entire courtesy toward each other in debate. While watching the proceedings to-day, I could not detect the least partiality in the conduct of the presiding officer of either house in awarding the floor when claimed by white and colored members; nor could I observe that the whites listened with any more attention to the speakers of their race than to those of the other. The numbers of the Legislature appear to be better on the whole than those of Congress. A striking illustration of the morals that prevail was afforded to-day by the arrest of a man for offering to pay members of a committee for making a report. No one who did not see the proceedings in the State House in the days of Scott and Moses can truly realize what a change has been brought about.

If there exist any dark sides of the picture—any new evils to counterbalance the good accomplished by this beneficent revolution—I cannot find them. The colored men with whom I talk complain of nothing except the disruption of the Republican party in the State. No one says that the interests of the negroes are going to be injuriously affected, except the personal interests of the few who will no longer be able to get office. It may in the future prove a misfortune in its influence on National affairs to have the Republican party lose its hold on South Carolina; but that the State and her people—black as well as white—will be benefited by the downfall of the sort of Republicanism that controlled here no fair observer can doubt. Even ex-Gov. Chamberlain, in a recent interview, admits that the material and financial interests of South Carolina will be better cared for under Gov. Hampton's administration. That interview appears to furnish the key-note for the opinions of Chamberlain's supporters here, and most of them talk in the same strain, enlarging the hope that the will succeed in the cause he has marked out.

E. V. S.

SURVEYING THE NEW-YORK LAKES.
To the Editor of The Tribune.
WHAT THE CORNELL BOYS ARE DOING—A VALUABLE WORK.

ITHACA, N. Y., May 29.—Every year the Seniors and Juniors of the Civil Engineering Department of the Cornell University, under the charge of Prof. Furtwangler, undertake a triangulation of the lakes of New-York. When Cayuga Lake is finished, the others will be taken in order, going westward. This will be incorporated with the Government triangulation, and eventually with the great chain of triangles over the continent. Prof. Furtwangler, the Acting Superintendent of the United States Coast Survey, manifested lively interest in the course in geography, and from his knowledge of the efficiency of Cornell graduates has promised a precedence to him in his office. The delicate instruments of the engineering department were partly made at the Coast Survey Department. The students are thereby enabled to execute work not inferior to the graduate surveys of foreign Governments.

Work on Cayuga Lake was begun by measuring a baseline across the widest at the village of Cayuga at the northern end of the lake and running a chain of trianges along the lake. The triangulation and hydrography of the lake are undertaken by the Seniors. The Juniors work the topographical portion. A special apparatus loaded with a boat is used for sounding the lake. The boat becomes detached on reaching bottom. At the last station the water is 425 feet deep, which is the greatest depth discovered. The depth increases rapidly in a southern direction. The accuracy of this portion of the triangulation will be checked on by this office. There are no Turkish officials in this country authorized to recruit recruits for the Turkish army. Of the various vagabonds and swindlers who have lately imposed themselves on the community as agents of the Turkish Government, none have been taken up, except one has been even a Turkish subject, and all, with the exception, have been of other nationality. The authenticity of any person claiming to represent the Turkish Government in any capacity can always be obtained by inquiry at this office.

EDWARD SHERER, Counsel,
Consular Office, May 29, 1877.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

SOLDIERS WITHOUT PAY.
UNJUST CONDUCT OF THE GOVERNMENT—TROUBLES THAT HAVE BEEN CAUSED—SERVICES NOT APPRECIATED.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: The lightness and flippancy with which the press seems to speak of the "inconveniences" to the army and navy of recent action and non-action of the Government in regard to provision for these public servants seems to me to deserve a few words of comment, which may be taken as a growl or not, but shall be none the less truthful and just on that account.

Both of these branches of the public service have been proved by experience to be necessary parts of this body politic, both are provided for by the Constitution and established by existing laws. Both have shown themselves and are known to be efficient, faithful, intelligent, uncomplaining, law-abiding, and ever ready to respond to the legitimate requirements and demands of their employers. They stand preeminently as the exponents of honesty and fidelity. And in times of danger the country is always fond in its acknowledgments of their services.

In the heat and mad excitement of politics the legislature of the Government purposely omitted to make the necessary appropriations for the pay and support of the army for the next fiscal year. Had they gone on and provided by law for its disbandment, and thus relieved it of the grave responsibilities and high risks devolving upon it, there would have been a semblance of honesty and a logical sequence in the action of the people's representatives; but it was apparent those men would have been held as recreant to their duty, and the people would have risen to stay such stupid folly, and would have visited them just indignation and wrath upon the men who would turn over their frontiers to the merciless savages and endanger their peace by inviting attack from other sources, and so, although desperate enough to jeopardize the discipline and well-being of the troops by unmerciful and impulsive withholding their just dues and leaving them helpless, our Congressmen were not brave enough to relieve the aim of its responsibility and to assume to themselves the reckoning to the people.

They were desperate enough, however, to present to the world the humiliating spectacle of a nation of over forty millions of people, pre-purposes and rich beyond compare, employing its citizens in the pernicious and destructive business of depredation and robbery, and extorting money from the public treasury, the pay and advances advanced to them in the solemn language of law and contract.

Then came in the administration, and still having the time before the beginning of the new fiscal year to make the necessary appropriations for the pay and support of the army for the next fiscal year. Had they gone on and provided by law for its disbandment, and thus relieved it of the grave responsibilities and high risks devolving upon it, there would have been a semblance of honesty and a logical sequence in the action of the people's representatives; but it was apparent those men would have been held as recreant to their duty, and the people would have risen to stay such stupid folly, and would have visited them just indignation and wrath upon the men who would turn over their frontiers to the merciless savages and endanger their peace by inviting attack from other sources, and so, although desperate enough to jeopardize the discipline and well-being of the troops by unmerciful and impulsive withholding their just dues and leaving them helpless, our Congressmen were not brave enough to relieve the aim of its responsibility and to assume to themselves the reckoning to the people.

Gov. Hampton speaks in an encouraging tone of the political and industrial outlook in the State. He thinks that the conservative, progressive element among the whites is largely in the majority, and that there is nothing to fear from the efforts of the leading Republicans not object to this. They say that the delegation elected from Charleston is weak and worthless, and that the interests of the State would be greatly advanced by the presence in the Legislature of a number of prominent business men, such as the city would return if a new election were to be held. An influential body of members familiar with commercial interests is much needed to give proper balance to a body now controlled by narrow-minded farmers and lawyers from the up-country.

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